

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the amendments filed on 1/14/08, claim 26 has been amended and claims 1-25 and 29-61 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 26-28 are pending in the current application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 26, line 2, replace "the control means" with - - the game control means - -.
- In claim 26, line 8, replace "subgames" with - - sub-games - - .
- In claim 26, line 11, replace "subgames" with - - sub-games - -.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher N. George (Reg. No. 51,728) on January 30, 2008.

Reasons For Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is deemed to be an unobvious improvement over the cited prior art. The improvement is made on an electronic gaming console having a credit means, reward means, game control means, display means, and player input controls. The gaming console has a game control means being responsive to the credit means and the player input controls to play a game which is displayed on the display means and in a winning event occurs, a player is awarded by the reward means. Additionally, the gaming console is characterized in that the game provides a video display, for displaying a game image of a hybrid game comprising two different sub-games played simultaneously. The two types of sub-games in the instant invention is a video display comprising images of one or more rotatable reels in a spinning reel game and the second is a game image that is displayed on the video display comprising a labyrinth of pins or pins and holes of a pin and ball game. The game console also incorporates the feature of a player input control that allows the players to initiate the motion of one or more rotatable reels in the first sub-game and to control one or more ball images of the second sub-game on the display. The game rewards players on the occurrence of an event where one or more of the reels and one or more of the ball images come to rest in predetermined prize winning locations so as the outcomes of the two separate games create a winning event.

In particular Sines et al., the closest prior art of record, teaches two types of sub-games. These two games are played in the same description as the claims above including displaying a number of prize zones in a pin and ball game and each zone offering at least one bonus feature or prize or the number and position of the prize zones is variable from game to game and also incorporates the ability for the player to select which prize zones

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are selectable and allowing the size of the bet to be wagered by the player on a particular game change the number and position of the prize zones that are selected. However, the prior art of record is silent to the limitation of the prize zone targets moving during the game. This feature as taught in the instant application would provide a level of excitement to the reel/pachinko (pin and ball) game machine as taught by Sines, because a player has a more difficult time of ascertaining where a prize zone will be when a ball is released. This feature therefore adds an added step of complexity to the reel/pachinko game that is not obviated by the prior art of record. Therefore the current prior art of record does not disclose, teach or fairly suggest this patentable feature, and the claims of the instant invention appear to be directed towards a distinct improvement over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Ryan Hsu whose telephone number is (571)-272-7148. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E Pezzuto can be reached at (571)-272-6996.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Robert E Pezzuto/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Ryan Hsu/

Examiner, Art Unit 3714

January 30, 2008